

FREE



Sheffield TIMES

- ☛ Mum Bett, Sheffield's abolitionist, page 5
- ☛ Memorial Day tribute, page 8
- ☛ River tribute, page 22

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol.VIII, Issue 6 July/August 2009

TOWN STAYS WITH FLAT RATE FOR TRASH

After many hours of discussion, two special hearings and a multitude of letters from Sheffield residents, Sheffield's Board of Selectmen voted to reverse the proposal to institute a pay-as-you-throw system for trash disposed at the town transfer station on Barnum St. The vote came at a working meeting on June 18.

The town will return to a system of billing all Sheffield households for a dump sticker unless the household can show that it disposes of trash via a private hauler or some other legal method. This is the system Sheffield used until last year, when only those who intended to use the transfer station were asked to buy a sticker. As a result, 500 fewer stickers were issued, yet the amount of trash needing to be trucked away remained the same. The trash disposal program thus ran into deficit, leading to the proposed pay-as-you-throw plan as a way to assure that all households pay their fair share.

The cost of Sheffield's transfer station is not in the town budget because the town created an "enterprise fund" several years ago to pay for it. Under a 1986

Massachusetts state law, an enterprise fund allows a municipal government to establish a separate accounting and financial reporting mechanism for municipal services for which a fee is charged in exchange for goods or services. A few years later, Sheffield set up the transfer station as an enterprise fund to help the town avoid running into Proposition 2½ override issues. (That legislation limits the amount of revenue a town can raise through property-tax increases.)

Most of the transfer station costs depend on the amount of trash and recyclables disposed of. Eco Waste, the Town's contractor, charges \$85 per ton to truck waste to a site in New York state. Recyclables are trucked to a facility in Springfield and bring in anywhere from \$2,000 to \$10,000 annually, depending on market conditions and how assiduous Sheffield residents are about recycling. Other costs, such as attendant salaries, are fixed. That means that to a certain extent, the more residents who use the transfer station, the lower the per-household fee.

The sticker fee in Fiscal Year 2007, the last year that bills were sent to the entire town, was \$104. Private haulers, by comparison, charge around \$400 a year.

The cost of this year's sticker (FY2010) will be determined by the Selectmen in consultation with the town's Finance Committee. Bills will be sent to all households sometime in July.

At the June 18 meeting, the Selectmen also voted to set up a Solid Waste

Study Committee and is seeking letters from residents willing to serve on it. The committee will be charged with looking at every aspect of how the Transfer Station is operated and funded, with a goal of making recommendations to the Board of Selectmen by next January for implementation next year. Interested residents should write a letter to the Board at Town Hall or send an email to jkellogg@sheffieldma.gov. —Andrea Scott

WOOD ELECTED IN RECOUNT; OTHER ELECTION RESULTS

The contested position in the May 11 town elections was a three-year term as Selectman. The original count at the close of the polls had David Smith, Jr., being elected over Rene Wood by two votes. Under Massachusetts General Law, with numbers so close, Wood was able to request a recount, the first in Sheffield since the early 1990s. The recount was held on May 27. The final vote, as certified by the Board of Registrars, showed Wood elected over Smith by two votes, 458 to 456.

Altogether, 920 of Sheffield's 2,298 registered voters cast a ballot, an exceptionally heavy turnout (40 percent) for a town election.

Others elected were uncontested. Bruce Person was elected to a one-year term as Moderator; Betty LeGeyt, to a

Continued on page 3

THE SHEFFIELD TIMES CELEBRATES 8 YEARS OF BRINGING YOU NEWS

With this issue, the Sheffield Times has brought you news of the Sheffield and Ashley Falls community every other month for eight years. Help us move into our ninth year of publishing! See page 27.

In This Issue

Community

Covered Bridge Park	3
Joan Brooks profile	4
Mum Bett	5
Real estate and construction	6
Choral festival, Dewey Hall folk series	7
James McGarry speech	8
Art Bachetti, breakfast, art show	9

Church news	10
Bears on Salisbury Rd.	12
Library	
Book talk, tree planting	13
Village Green	
Senior Center news, recycling	14
Board of Selectmen meeting minutes	15
Planning Board news	18
Town Hall Town Clerk news	19

Organizations & Businesses

Barn at school, town vacancies	20
Kiwanis, American Legion news	21
Housatonic River	22
Bartholomew's Cobble events	22
Historical Society	24
Land Trust news	26
Fire log, real estate transfers	26
Calendar Page	27

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TOWN ELECTIONS, continued from page 1

three-year term as Library Trustee; and Chris Tomich and Peter Cherneff to two three-year terms on the Planning Board.

There were also two questions on the ballot relating to Proposition 2½ overrides. Voters passed, by a vote of 468 to 418, an override of \$177,000, which supported the compromise for Sheffield's share of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Budget that was worked out by the now-elected School Committee. The four other towns in the school district also approved the compromise. (The override of \$305,000 was defeated, 560 to 296.)

Wood took office on May 28. She said, "I'm so grateful for the votes, good wishes and comments of support I received during this process. So many people have told me they'll never miss voting again!"

She hopes people will share their thoughts and give her feedback, both positive and negative. "We've got a lot of challenges before us. During the next three years, I believe we'll have to rethink how we do, as well as pay for, many things, since the current state budget provides less funding for municipalities and schools, and no one expects the next state budget to be any better. We can hope that's not the case, but we need to begin planning now."

Wood, who last year completed six years of service on the town Planning Board, believes that Sheffield's volunteer spirit is vital to the success of the town. "I urge everyone to check out board vacancies on the town website and find a way to become involved. Sheffield runs on volunteers, and we need your time, energy and ideas."

—Andrea Scott

MILLER 'CITIZEN OF YEAR'

Catherine Miller, a Sheffield volunteer and organizer extraordinaire, was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Great Barrington Rotary Club.

"I was surprised and humbled by the honor," Catherine told the *Sheffield Times*. "I have been involved in community activities for many years. I believe strongly in giving back to one's community particularly if it makes life a little better for someone, or an organization that serves others benefits."

One of Catherine's most recent projects has been the newly landscaped Town Parking Lot, where she was one of several citizens serving on the ad hoc Parking Area Beautification Committee. Last November, she was elected to the School Committee for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

COVERED BRIDGE PARK AND CANOE LAUNCH TAKING SHAPE

Many generations have enjoyed the spot of land along the Housatonic River at Sheffield's historic Covered Bridge. Boaters have long stepped carefully down the river's steep banks to put in their canoes and kayaks. As that part of the river flows through the Sheffield Plain, the launch accesses the best in flat-water canoeing.

Jean and Sydney Weinstein donated that piece of land to the town of Sheffield last year for use as a park. Now, plans for landscaping and improving canoe access have been approved by the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission. A canoe ramp will be constructed to enable easy access to and from the river. The entire grassy area along the river will be expanded, opening up a full view of the river and the Covered Bridge. Invasive plants will be replaced with native plants and grass. The ramp will be built this summer, and the landscaping completed in the fall. Eventually, a stone bench will be installed.

Major funding for the project is coming from the Natural Resources Damages Fund that GE was required to create to help offset damage from PCBs in the river, through a grant received and administered by the Housatonic Valley Association and ESS Consulting. The Town and the Sheffield Land Trust have also provided funds. Many Sheffield volunteers and businesses have contributed their time and talents to the creation of the project.

The effort to create a park by the covered bridge turned up other possible access points to the river as well. It turns out that land by Kellogg Rd., which was thought to be Appalachian Trail land, is actually owned by the Town. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is interested in working with the Town to create a trailhead at that point.

The Town also owns land at Maple Ave. where it crosses the river. Approvals have been sought to clear a parking area



Site visit. Some of the people working on the Covered Bridge Park project gathered on May 19 to discuss removing invasive species and building the canoe launch. From left: Sari Hoy and Tom Ingersoll from Webster Ingersoll, Neal Chamberlain, Town Administrator Joe Kellogg, Selectman Julie Hannum, project coordinator Bill Connell, Dennis Regan from Housatonic Valley Association, Gaeton LeChance from the Sheffield Conservation Commission and Jeff Nield, engineer with ESS Consulting. ESS and HVA are administrators of the grant funding the work.

off the roadway and a pathway to a canoe/kayak access spot below the bridge. The hope is to develop ramps there and at Kellogg Rd., and also at Rannapo Rd., where canoeists have long accessed the river.

The Town has applied for money from the second round of GE cleanup money to fund clearing invasives and replanting with native plants. Grant awards won't be known until next year.

—Bill Connell

JOAN BROOKS: AN ASHLEY FALLS LIFE

Bright, energetic, witty—Ashley Falls resident Joan Brooks is a vibrant woman whose life has been intricately bound up with the fabric of our community, with roots dating back to her great-grandfather who summered in his house on Silver St.

Joan, born Joan Schopp, spent her earliest days in New Rochelle, NY, where Norman Rockwell was then living. A local man, Pop Morton, posed frequently for Rockwell, and when the artist needed to paint the arms and hands of a little girl to complete a composition, he thought of the Schopp sisters. This was in 1934 when Joan was just seven years old. It was actually a toss-up between Joan and her sister Lois, but Joan's mother chose Joan because she "wouldn't give as much trouble." Joan, however, was not happy, as it meant giving up a precious Saturday afternoon to sit posing on a platform for two hours. When Rockwell proffered a package of crackers as payment, Joan was even less delighted and was only appeased when Rockwell bought her a Milky Way.

The finished painting is called "The Land of Enchantment" and hangs in the New Rochelle Public Library. It's a magical work, depicting two children absorbed in reading a storybook, with the names of famous tales edging the picture. You can see it in the book entitled *Norman Rockwell, Artist and Illustrator*, published in 1970 by Harry N. Abrams. Joan's arms and hands were what Rockwell needed to provide the finishing touch.

In 1943, during the Second World War and after a stint in Iraq, Joan's father moved the family from New Rochelle to Sheffield, where he bought 15 acres and a house on Berkshire School Rd. for \$3,000. Joan entered Sheffield School as a junior—the school then housed all 12 grades.

One of her first friends was the mother of James McGarry, current chief of police, who invited Joan to eat lunch with her. Millie Smith, whose vegetable vigilance made her a town legend, was the lunch lady. She ruled with a rod of iron and made sure no food (especially vegetables) was ever wasted. Always outgoing, outspoken and gregarious, Joan quickly became class president and



Joan Brooks and her late husband, Dick.

graduated at the age of 18 in a class of 13 students.

During high school, both Joan and Lois worked at Egremont's Jug End Barn where, she says, "We had a heck of a lot of fun!" Jug End (the name comes from the German *jugend*, or youth) was a former cattle barn that had been turned into a hotel in 1935 and became a popular resort for mostly single men and women. Joan recalls that in the 1940s you could stay for \$4 a day, which included three meals. There was no menu and meals were served family style. "It was just fun," says Joan and, especially while the war was going on, people came to relax and enjoy the tennis, swimming and parties. Gene Kelly was one of the visitors, Joan recalls. Men slept in the "Bull Pen," women in the "Cow Pen," and people came up from as far away as New York City to enjoy the country life.

After high school, Joan headed for New York and a job in an advertising agency on Madison Ave. Her arrival for her interview at the agency was noteworthy. Finding the elevator operator on strike, she climbed up 12 flights of the fire escape and hopped into the agency through the 13th floor window, to the astonishment of the office workers. Her initiative got her the job, and she worked there until 1947, when she traveled

across America with her sister, mother and aunt. Motels were \$2 or \$3 a night and they journeyed over to Oregon, down to California (where Joan was stunned by her first sight of the Golden Gate Bridge), drove along the legendary Route 66 to the Grand Canyon and, finally, home to Sheffield.

In August 1947 Joan met Dick Brooks, who also worked at Jug End Barn. Joan was unimpressed, however, and left for Colorado to work. When she returned to Sheffield in the spring of 1948, she met Dick again. She recalls that when she saw him, "The blood drained from my face." She thought, "I'm going to live with him the rest of my life." She was engaged within the month and married in September, wearing her sister, Lois's, wedding dress and a veil made by Natalie Funk (she later served many years as Sheffield's Town Clerk). For the first year the couple lived over the Old Stone Store (then Kersey's Market), where the rent was \$25 a month and the mice ran rampant. It was a love match that lasted more than 57 years until Dick died in 2005. The couple had five children, David, Susan, Timothy, Melinda and Andy (all of whom live locally), 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Joan's years in Sheffield have always been energetic ones. On learning there was no kindergarten in Sheffield, she and former town assessor Ruth Gillette started a kindergarten in the Congregational Church, staffed by parent volunteers and a paid teacher. She and Lois, who married Bill Bradford in 1967, started Maplewood Fabrics in 1963 in her parents' home in Ashley Falls (a building that was formerly the Maplewood Inn) and later moved the business across the street. Joan credits Lois's advertising skill with the success of the business, which was sold in 1986.

"I'm so glad I ended up in Sheffield," says Joan. "I had wonderful parents and a loving husband who always had one more comeback!" She added: "Where did it go?" looking back on a life rich with family and friends, a life always marked by the energy and optimism which is still very present.

—Gillian Hettinger

MUM BETT, SHEFFIELD'S ABOLITIONIST

Recently my wife, Marilyn, and I visited the homestead of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In the gift shop we noticed the "2009 Calendar of the Abolition of Slavery" published by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. It contains pictures of great abolitionists, one for each month of the year, including Stowe herself and Frederick Douglas, John Brown and Dred Scott.

For August, Sheffield's own Mum Bett is featured in an 1811 watercolor on ivory painting by Susan Anne Livingston Ridley Sedgwick, between a painting of the storming of Fort Wagner in the Civil War by the famed Massachusetts 54th Regiment (July) and President Abraham Lincoln himself (September). On August 22, the calendar notes that on that day in 1781 a Massachusetts judge ruled in *Brown and Bett v. Ashley* that the state constitution "free and equal" clause applies to blacks.

The Town of Sheffield hardly acknowledged Mum Bett while she was alive. A slave of Col. John Ashley, she had no rights. She owned no property. She could not read or write. In late 18th century Sheffield, slavery was not a moral issue for most. Part of the reason was economic. Wealthy landowners like Col. Ashley needed help working the land and managing their property. It was logical then that they might turn to an inexpensive alternative. Col. Ashley reported "five servants for life" in the 1771 census.

There is no evidence that clergy of the time questioned its morality. In those days most Sheffieldites were Biblical literalists, and slavery was justified because of the many references to slavery in scripture. We don't have any sermons of the pastor of Sheffield's only church at that time, but we know the Rev. John Keep came from conservative Puritan stock. He and most of his congregation probably believed in a hierarchical world order, and Mum Bett was at the bottom. The people of Sheffield didn't need to take her seriously or even understand why she might want or deserve something called "freedom." That was reserved for white men who wanted separation from Great Britain.

Still, there she is, towering morally above the town of which she was a part. How was she able to escape the social and

religious conservatism of her time?

One of the stories about Mum Bett describes her hearing friends of Ashley talk about the Declaration of Independence as she went about her duties in the Ashley house, another that she heard that same discussion at the Sheffield Meeting House. A third notes that some citizens had inserted an item in the warrant for the 1774 town meeting, "To take into consideration the present inhuman practice of enslaving our fellow creatures, the natives of Africa." (Action on the motion was tabled.)

A partial answer might lie in the mind and heart of her lawyer, Theodore Sedgwick. Sedgwick, later a justice on the Massachusetts Supreme Court, was just beginning his legal practice in Sheffield. He was certainly aware of antislavery currents in the country, if not Sheffield. According to Lillian Preiss in *Sheffield: Frontier Town*, he was intrigued by the "palpable illogic of slavery at a time when Massachusetts was engaged in a fight for freedom from imperial regulation and control." And he was undoubtedly aware of the freshly penned Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Still, there was risk for him to take the case. Ashley was a friend and mentor. They had both been appointed to serve on a small committee to provide for Rev. Keep's ordination. They worked together on the Sheffield Declaration, a precursor to the Declaration of Independence. Even more importantly, Col. Ashley loaned Sedgwick 60,000 Continental dollars in 1780. One might think that Sedgwick would thus be reluctant to bring suit. Historian Bernard Drew suggests that the friendship of the two



Mum Bett, in an 1811 watercolor on ivory by Susan Anne Livingston Ridley Sedgwick.

could have been so deep that the suit represented "a quiet collaboration to bring the case forward as a test."

As a clergyman, however, I want to suggest another alternative. I wonder if the original impulse lies within Mum Bett herself. Perhaps like many African-American slaves she found her inspiration in the Biblical story of the exodus of Jewish slaves out of Egypt. Or perhaps she had heard Rev. Keep preaching from Galatians "for freedom Christ has set us free," and she took it literally. Or perhaps it was her own, personal religious experience.

We'll never know for sure. All we do know is she found life as a slave intolerable in Sheffield and Ashley Falls and had to act. The six-mile walk from Ashley Falls to Sheffield to see Theodore Sedgwick was her exodus to freedom.

—John G. Wightman

The Marc Dewey Research Center of the Sheffield Historical Society has a copy of the "2009 Calendar of the Abolition of Slavery." It is open Monday and Friday afternoons.

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ECONOMY CATCHES UP WITH REAL ESTATE, CONSTRUCTION

The woes of the U.S. economy have started to affect real estate and the construction trades in Sheffield and southern Berkshire County.

"We had a frightening first quarter," says Joseph Carini of Wheeler & Taylor in Great Barrington. He reports that transactions in South County were down 42 percent, according to the Berkshire County Board of Realtors. (South County is defined as the 16 towns from Stockbridge south.) "It's much better now. We've had a bit of a burst in the last few weeks."

Carini says more people are looking now. "Contracts have been slow, though, and closings slower. Everyone is very cautious."

He notes some positive indicators: the stock market is up, and the government's stimulus package is providing a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for first-time buyers or people who haven't owned a home in three years, and interest rates are low, just above 5 percent. "These things have really helped," he says. And he remains optimistic. "There's no percentage in pessimism," he says.

Sandra Preston, of Sandra Preston Real Estate in Sheffield, confirms Carini's view of the business, with one difference: "I don't think one buyer in South County has used the tax credit," she says. She believes it is being used more in the Pittsfield area.

While things have been slow, she had three showings in three days last week. "Homes under \$200,000 are selling," she says.

She feels lucky to have had a terrific year in 2008. "I'm glad I put a new roof

on my house last year," she says. But she's confident the market will come back up. "It will take a few years, but it will come back," she says. "I've been in business a long time. I'm not going anywhere."

Bill DeVries of DeVries Building Supply in Sheffield is well placed to see what's happening in the construction trades. "New construction is pretty dismal," he says. "Smaller jobs, like renovation, repairs, and upgrades are below average but not bad. Not great, but survivable. The outfits that build new homes usually didn't have time or personnel to deal with small repairs, and they're the guys who probably got the worst of it. New construction is basically discretionary, an upscale luxury, and that section is pretty tired. The upper portion is pretty quiet."

Pat Carlson, of Carlson Heating and Air Conditioning in Sheffield, has not been seeing a very rosy picture either. "It's not like last year," she says. "The builders are doing little jobs now, just changing a few pipes, things like that, though I did hear about one big property selling."

Meanwhile, the air-conditioning business was particularly slow during this cool, wet June. "When June is cool, people think maybe they can make it through," she says. Meanwhile, her business has fixed bills like health insurance for employees coming every month. "Some people think we should lower our prices," she says, "but our costs don't change." Her overall assessment sounds very much like others': "We're all just holding our breath," she says.

Many contractors are coming to the

end of their accumulated work orders.

"I keep crossing my fingers," says Jean Faucher of Southern Berkshire Builders, based in Sheffield. "But it's a tough time for everyone. I've had people asking me to put a tarp on their roof instead of installing a new one. I used to have to erase the excess messages every day on my phone machine because it was filled up. Not any more. I'm still working on jobs I had lined up from last year, and I just have to hope that things turn around soon. Where the heck is all that stimulus money?"

General contractor Herb Eichstedt of Mill River reports a similar environment. After working at another construction firm for 22 years, he went out on his own in October. "We've been doing lots of little jobs. It's better than the winter was. We're doing things like roofs and little decks. It's really a buyer's market, though." He knows of few big houses being built. "There's an 11,000-square foot one at Windermere over by York Lake, but I think that's about it."

Readers of the Shoppers Guide may have noticed a display ad recently that begins as follows: "We are a group of Local Carpenters, Painters and Landscapers, who like you, are enduring the nation's hard economic times. In hopes of offering our customers prices they can afford and restarting our area's economy, we have come together and reduced our rates."

The ad was placed by Michael Bachetti, on behalf of himself and a network of colleagues and friends. "I've lived here all my life," he says. "There are a whole bunch of people I've known since

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I was a kid, and I'm helping to try to find them work. We're all local people trying to survive. Times are tough for everybody. We're trying to network." The ad, he says, is basically a co-op. "If we all did that instead of cutting each other's throats, the world would be a better place," he says.

Bachetti notes that there have been several large construction jobs recently, like the Big Y and the Fire Department in Great Barrington, that have gone to out-of-town firms. "The big companies could hire locally," he remarks. Generally, he says, "things are picking up here and there, but they're nothing compared to 10 years ago. It's a little better than last year. We just have to tighten our belts and lower prices. People are afraid to spend money." He ends on the same hopeful note that many of us are taking: "People can't be afraid," he says. "The economy is going to come back."

The most upbeat person contacted by the Times was Eric Pedersen of Monterey. "We've had lots of work. I'm really thankful," he says. Over his 30-year career, he has tended to do higher end, custom work, like timber frame homes and barns using hand-hewn salvaged timbers. "I haven't been doing timber framing lately," he says, "but there's been quite a bit of shop work, like building windows." He's had to trim staff, however. "There have been times when I've had three or four people, but now it's down to me and another guy."

It helps that he runs a diversified group of businesses. In addition to construction, he has an organic farm. "We've been building it for 15 years," he

explained. "The next thing will be a community farm store, with people bringing locally grown produce. I've done lots of stonework over the years, too. I've always believed in having lots of irons in the fire. Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

Still, business is not what it was. "I run an ad regularly in the Shopper's Guide," he says, "and when I don't get calls from that ad I know the economy's not so good. If people do call from the ad, they're kicking the tires, and they just want several estimates."

He remains optimistic. "There are huge opportunities out there. We just have to get a little more creative. We have to look at alternative energies like solar and wind." Pederson is building a windmill right now in his woodshop, hoping to get it done before winter. "It's an experimental prototype," he says.

"It doesn't matter to me what I do, I love to work," he says. "I'll dig a ditch or wash dishes. We all just have to work a little harder, work a little smarter now. I want to encourage young people. Great days are coming."

—Ellen Weiss

CHORAL FESTIVAL AT BERKSHIRE SCHOOL

The 2009 Berkshire Choral Festival, now in its 28th year in the Berkshires, presents its first program on Sat., July 18, featuring African-American spirituals and freedom songs. The July 25 program will be Fauré's "Requiem" and choral music by Mendelssohn. Rachmaninoff, sung in church Slavonic, will be performed at the Aug. 1 program, and Mozart and Purcell at the Aug. 8 program. The festival wraps up on Aug. 15 with Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion," sung in German.

The festival, which draws amateur choral singers from around the U.S. and the world, is held at Rovensky Concert Shed at Berkshire School on Rt. 41. The singers work with professional music staff for a week, culminating in the Saturday night performance.

Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$45. For more information, call the box office at 229-1999, or check the website at www.chorus.org.

DEWEY HALL FOLK SERIES

The continuing Dewey Hall Folk Series is held on the first Saturday of the month. For the summer, the concerts will be held at Old Parish Church at the north end of the green in Sheffield.

On Sat., July 11, at 8pm, singer-songwriter Bruce Mandel performs his mix of contemporary folk, folk-rock, bluegrass, and Americana.

On Sat., Aug. 2, at 8pm, the Northshire String Band—four bluegrass/folk musicians "pickin' and grinnin'" on their guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass—performs.

For more information about the Folk Music series, see www.deweyhall.com or look for the posting on Facebook.

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SHEFFIELD'S MEMORIAL DAY: THE SACRIFICES OF MOTHERS

James McGarry, Sheffield's Chief of Police for over 37 years, was invited to give Sheffield's Memorial Day speech on May 25. His talk centered on memories of his grandmother and the impact of World War II on her and two of her sons. Of her six children, two enlisted in the war: Danny when he was 26 and Milton when he was only 17 or 18.

An only child, Chief McGarry was born and raised in Sheffield, largely by his grandmother with whom he and his mother lived. After graduating from Mt. Everett high school he received his police training at the Massachusetts State Police Academy for Municipal Police Officers. He started as a part-time police officer in Sheffield in 1967, becoming full time in 1970 and Acting Chief in 1971. He was appointed Chief in 1972. When not running the Sheffield police department, he enjoys time in Virginia with his step-daughter and his two grandchildren.

Here are excerpts from his speech:

"My first recollections of Memorial Day are from the early 1950s.

Memorial Day was then commemorated by a majority of the community. The parade would begin at the driveway of the Sheffield Center School [now the Library] and would include the elementary school children who, after receiving a brief lecture on the proper way to carry an American flag by Charlie Ward and Milt Barnum, were each given a small American flag to carry. Many of the organizations present today—the Fire Department, the Women's American Legion Auxiliary, the flower girls, the Board of Selectmen, the clergy—also were part of the parade. And of course there were many more veterans then. In addition, there was a convertible containing three older women, which I will speak about later. The parade would be led by Francis Kersey, who operated the market in what is now the Stone Store, in uniform and on horseback. Main Street contained a large number of people on both sides as did Memorial Park, where we now stand.

Back then, I could have told you without looking at a calendar, that Memorial Day was upon us by the activity in our



James McGarry, center, surrounded by volunteer firefighters, clergy, the Selectmen and veterans at Sheffield's Memorial Day ceremonies in Barnard Park on Route 7.

household. I grew up in an apartment on the Gilligan block [the building where the Salisbury Bank & Trust branch now is] with my mother and grandmother.

Several days before Memorial Day, my grandmother would get her lavender dress from the cleaners and lay it out on a chair in her room. This would be followed by a trip to Millie's Beauty Shop, located on the second floor of the Bartholomew block [where Silk's is] You could tell without seeing her that she had been at Millie's, for in those days the older ladies with white hair would have a blue tinge added, and you could smell the effects of the bluing long before seeing my grandmother.

There were also changes in my grandmother's personality. She became very quiet, her quiet sense of humor placed upon a shelf, and she would be found sitting in her chair, looking far off to someplace I have never been.

The night before Memorial Day, you would see that a small pin with a stripe of blue cloth with a single small gold star had been placed on the left side of the dress and a hat on top. This gold star signified my grandmother as a "Gold Star Mother," having lost her son Milton, a sailor, in combat on June 10, 1944. Milton had just entered the Navy in January of that year. He was killed at Normandy during the second run of his ship, an LST [Landing Ship Tank]. His remains

lie at the bottom of the English Channel.

After my grandmother's death, I found among the papers beneath the blue box that contained the gold star, a telegram: "The Navy Department deeply regrets to inform you that your son Milton Charles McGarry Seaman Second Class USNR was killed in action in the performance of his duty and in the service of his country. The Department extends to you its sincerest sympathy in your great loss. On account of existing conditions the body, if recovered, cannot be returned at present. If future details are received you will be informed. To prevent possible aid to our enemies please do not divulge the name of his ship or station." Signed, Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs, Chief of Naval Personnel.

Before sunrise on Memorial Day my grandmother would already be in her lavender dress with her hat on, sitting quietly in her rocker. You could see that she had been or was silently crying. About 10:15 or so, there would be a knock at the door. Most often it would be Francis Nourse, who would not wait for the door to be answered but would walk right in and say "Mrs. B (I have no idea what that meant) are you ready?" He would go to her, help her up and walk her downstairs to the convertible, carrying on a one-way conversation. Sometimes it was Jimmy Winters or Jimmy Lekakis who would come, and they all treated her

REMEMBERING ART BACHETTI

as if she were their mother.

In the convertible would be two other women also wearing the same gold star, Mrs. Small and Mrs. Mosley. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Gold Star mothers would review the parade from in front of the Mobil station where they would be honored with "Eyes right!" as the parade passed.

But this was not the end of Memorial Day for my grandmother. Upon her return home, she would be met by her son Dan, and they would spend time alone, away from the rest of us. Danny, the oldest, was in his 20s when he enlisted in 1942. He fought in Sicily, Africa and Europe, including Normandy. He was wounded, returned to combat and finally made it home at the end of the war. Dan had medical problems for the rest of his life as a result of the injuries he received in the service. Like my grandmother, he was a quiet unassuming individual who somehow became a sergeant before being discharged. He never spoke of the war.

I now realize the tears of my grandmother, like millions of other moms, were not only for the son she lost but also for her son who returned home and would for the rest of his life be affected with physical and probably emotional trauma from his service.

We, as a community and as a nation, today spend an hour or two attending or participating in the commemoration of Memorial Day. But we forget that many of those men and women who served on foreign soil and returned home still bear the burden of their services, either physically or emotionally. They have seen things and done things that no person should ever have to do. We, as a country, have an obligation to meet the needs of these men and women and their families of whom we have asked so much.

Each tree within this park is dedicated to a serviceman who lost his life in either World War II, Korea or Vietnam. Each tree also signifies a grieving mom. Perhaps if all the gold star mothers, regardless of country, governed the world, war would be an unlikely occurrence.

God bless the veterans. God bless the moms."

For more than 20 years, the mid-May call to Art Bachetti officially began the hay season here on Barnum Hill Farm on Barnum St. Art kept my 40- and 50-year-old hay-making machinery working against all odds. His passing this spring has left many farmers from Sharon, CT, to Pittsfield and beyond wondering who will show up to save that field of hay before the rain arrives when the baler breaks down.

Art would show up with his 60 years of knowledge, an astounding assortment of nuts, bolts, springs, washers and spacers, a can of PB Blaster and a set of sharp files and proceed to fix whatever I had managed to break. All done with calm good humor and the occasional laugh.

The first time I met Art, I was struck by his hands. Huge and powerful, they looked like they could crush rock. I was to find that those hands, despite missing a digit or two, could make the most precise adjustments to knotters and brakes. Equally memorable was Art's smile, which involved his whole face as he broke into one of his frequent chuckles.

Art was patient, persistent and somebody you could always count on to show up when you needed help. Many will miss him.

—Kerry Douglas

PANCAKE BREAKFAST A SUCCESS

The 16th annual Father's Day Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by the Sheffield Friendly Union, was held on June 21 at Dewey Memorial Hall. The event was a tremendous success—192 adults and children were served their choice of plain or homegrown blueberry pancakes along with sausage, applesauce, orange juice, tea, and coffee.

There was a wonderful crew of volunteer workers. Paul O'Brien and Terry Walsh flipped the "jacks," servers Marcia Friedman, Peter Blanck and Fran Mecurio filled the plates, and waiters Chris Kelley, Jean Emberlin, Sandy French,

Kathy Boyd Hutchinson and Sue and Stan Telensky made sure all the customers were happy. Natalie and Marie Funk sold tickets at the door while Jenny Gebo and Jeff Steele did the washing up. Many thanks to all who came to enjoy and support our benefit and a generous thank you to all the volunteers.

We were happy to see new faces as well as our reliable supporters, and we are encouraged by the many personal compliments to the cooks and volunteers. We're looking forward to having everyone join us again next year.

—Pauline Clarke

ART SHOW CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Town of New Marlborough is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. In honor of this event, the Meeting House Gallery is conducting two juried exhibits.

"Photographers Celebrate New Marlborough Now" runs from Jul. 25 to Aug. 23. The show will be juried by Arthur Hillman, head of the Arts Division at Bard College at Simon's Rock, and Barbara Winters, a professional photographer.

"Artists Celebrate New Marlborough" runs from Aug. 29 to Oct. 3. The show will be juried by Jane Kasten, former owner of the SKH Gallery in Great Barrington.

Artists and photographers, please consider participating. If you're not an

artist yourself, please notify any photographers or artists of your acquaintance who may be interested. While the themes of the artworks for these shows must be related to New Marlborough, exhibitors need not be New Marlborough residents.

An exhibit of photos and artefacts from the collection of the New Marlborough Historical Society is at the gallery until July 12. Included is an oral history video of community elders with memories of earlier years.

The Meeting House Gallery is located at 154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Rd. (Route 57). For the shows, gallery hours will be expanded to 11am to 4pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

CHURCH NEWS

Old Parish

Summer hours. Old Parish is announcing a change in summer hours. The office will be open Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 2pm. Sunday worship hours remain the same, at 10am.

Food Assistance Program

No news that the economy has tanked, but more and more people are hearing about the Food Assistance Program and taking advantage of it. The number of households we serve has risen to 32, with 93 individuals. We are so glad to be able to help and as always thrilled by the support that comes our way.

At the high school, SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) dedicated one of their breakfasts to the Food Program, raising \$400. Then they shopped. Big Y was having a great sale week, and we reaped the benefit just as our supplies dwindled. The SADD folks delivered two tables-full of food.

In addition, we receive three shares from the Wolfe Farm CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) through our friends at the Berkshire Taconic Community Founda-



Members of SADD from Mt. Everett High School bring their bounty to the Food Assistance Program's pantry.

tion. Every week we get a delivery of really fresh produce, organically grown. What a delight to add those strawberries, asparagus and herbs to our baskets! And this is before the real growing season has begun.

If you have any extra produce this summer and are willing to bring it to us, call 229-2624 to make arrangements. Our current wish list includes beans, soups, condiments and rice—especially rice. You can drop donations into the barrel at Berkshire Bank in Sheffield.

The Sheffield Historical Society



**COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND TRANSMITTING
SHEFFIELD'S HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE**

The **1774 Dan Raymond House Museum** offers tours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm (May-Oct.)

Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax & real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open year round, Monday & Friday 1:30-4 pm and by appointment.

Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

The **1834 Old Stone Store** located on the town green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space.

Open weekends, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm
& Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm (April-Dec.)

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist), 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

NORTH EGREMONT

North Egremont Baptist, Egremont Plain Rd. (Rt. 71) 528-6066. Sunday: 10am Worship; Monday: 6pm Bible Study. Rev. Stephen Vannah, Pastor

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of S. Berkshire. Meets at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main St. 528-4850; home 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm service. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Old Parish (Congregational), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship, Sunday School, 10am. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic), Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Father Henry Kowalczyk

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational), 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org. Sunday: 10:45am Morning Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wednesdays: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin

OLD PARISH ANTIQUES SHOW

The 61st annual Sheffield Antiques Show will be at Mt. Everett High School Aug. 7, 8 and 9, from 10am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday and 10 to 4 on Sunday. The air-conditioned venue is a great place to spend some time amid beautiful antiques.

The show is sponsored by Old Parish Church. High-quality antique dealers from all over the Northeast will fill the two large cafeteria spaces as well as the connecting corridors at the school. You'll be able to find fine furniture as well as good country pieces, antique rugs, quilts, other textiles and decorative pieces for home and garden. Top dealers of silver and glass and antique jewelry will bring a wide variety of items for collectors.

Church members will be serving lunch each day. Homemade foods and baked goods, including pies, will be available each day. The Old Parish Quilters will be showing their 16th annual raffle quilt and selling tickets for this year's queen-size beauty.

The school is handicap accessible, and there's plenty of free parking.

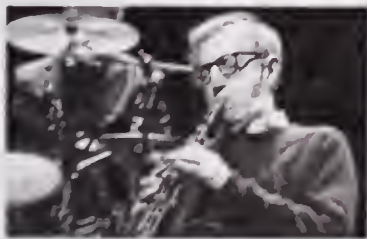
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m 09
music and more

SUN, AUG 16, 4:30 PM • BERKSHIRE WRITERS' FREE FOR ALL! Writers who have chosen the Berkshires as home present their latest poetry and prose in this lively, annual event that is always full of surprises. Free admission. Hosted by Jon Swan.



Woody Allen in concert

SAT, AUG 22, 7:30 PM • WILD MAN BLUES Directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Barbara Kopple, this film brings its audience along on a grand tour with Woody Allen as he travels through Europe with his New Orleans-style jazz band; a rich backdrop for the often witty, sometimes cranky, star of this delightful documentary. Introduction and Q & A hosted by independent filmmaker Lawrence Burke with Larry Silk, the film's editor.



Trio Solisti

SAT, AUG 29, 4:30 PM • TRIO SOLISTI Trio Solisti has earned a reputation for its passionate, committed, and adventurous performances. Hailed as "the most exciting piano trio in America" by The New Yorker Magazine. Maria Bachmann, violin; Alexis Pia Gerlach, cello; Jon Klibonoff, piano.

SAT, SEPT 5, 4:30 PM • FROM MOZART TO STRAVINSKY The unusual combination of clarinet with violin or viola and piano inspired the creation of the four masterworks that comprise this concert. Acclaimed clarinetist and lecturer Paul Green will introduce the audience to each of these outstanding chamber works, including a unique adaptation of Stravinsky's brilliant theatre piece, *The Soldier's Tale*. Paul Green, clarinet; Ronald Gorevic, violin and viola; Doris Stevenson, piano; Keith Kibler narrator.



Paul Green

MORE SHOWS!

SEPT 12 • Calliope, A Renaissance Band **SEPT 26 • A Late Afternoon of Great Jazz, Fine Wines and Food** **OCT 3 • Award-Winning Authors**

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Gallery Hours: Fri, Sat & Sun 11am-4pm, and during Music & More events. For info: 413-229-8972 • www.newmarlborough.org

At the Meeting House on the village green, Route 57 in the center of New Marlborough, MA
Receptions with the artists follow in the Meeting House Gallery

TICKETS AND INFORMATION: (413) 229-2785 • www.newmarlborough.org

BEARS ON SALISBURY RD.



Several people who live along Salisbury Rd. in the southeast part of Sheffield have reported seeing a mother bear and her two cubs this spring. We saw them in the garden behind our house one Saturday morning. After watching the bears for a few minutes, we blasted an air horn to scare them away—a remedy suggested by the Sheffield police. Instead of sending them running into the woods, it sent the two cubs scampering 30 feet up the nearest sugar maple. Mom was able to get herself only to the first branch. There she hissed, glared and lounged for half an hour, until the cubs shinned down the trunk and they all finally ran off into the woods.

—Andrea Scott

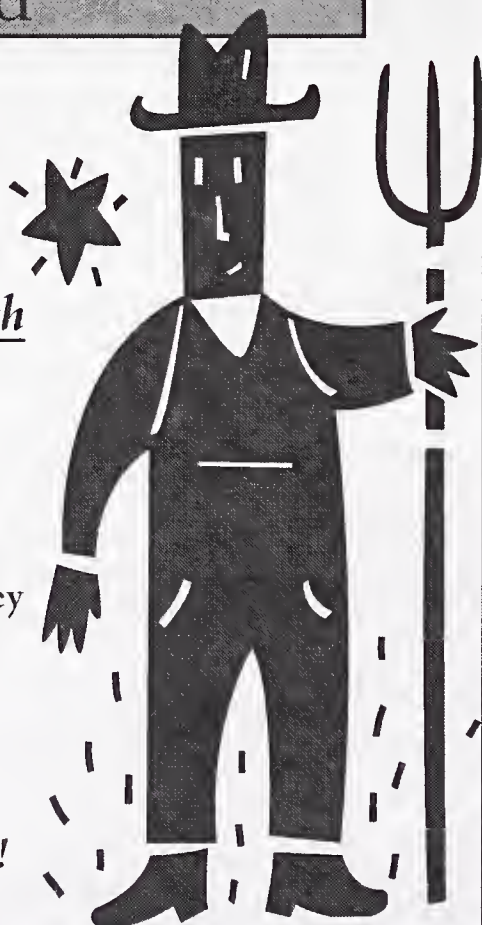
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TALK ON ART DECO ARCHITECTURE

Nina and Don Worth will present a slide lecture about their book, *Art Deco of Miami Beach and Shanghai*, at the Bushnell-Sage Library on Fri., July 17, at 6:30pm.

While the Art Deco architecture of Miami Beach is well known, few have seen Shanghai's, the largest collection of such architecture in Asia and one of the largest in the world. The book features 100 color photographs, 50 in each city. The photos were taken by Deke Erh, recognized as modern China's first freelance photographer, who grew up among the Art Deco buildings in Shanghai and is passionate about preserving them.

Sheffield residents Nina and Don Worth developed the project after a cultural exchange trip to China four years ago. Their mission is to bring awareness and help preserve Shanghai's Art Deco masterpieces, which are in danger of being lost to the burgeoning Chinese economy.

BIRCH PLANTED AT LIBRARY

As part of its landscaping master plan, the Bushnell-Sage Library is adding to plantings in the area behind the building. On May 23, the Sheffield Tree Project planted a large specimen "Heritage" river birch.

Doing the planting were Tree Project chair Tom Ingersoll and board members Will Conklin, Kerry Douglas, Frank Garretson and Kathy Orlando with assistance from Library Trustee Susan Young. The tree and truck were provided by Webster Ingersoll, the landscaping firm on Route 7 in Sheffield.

The birch joins several "memorial trees" planted on the library grounds. Others include trees planted in memory of Mark Brandt, John Howden, Cecil Bartholomew and Dana Bartholomew. There are also two trees planted as interfaith remembrances.



The largest tree ever planted by the Sheffield Tree Project dwarfs Frank Garretson, Tom Ingersoll, Kerry Douglas, Susan Young and Will Conklin.

SHEFFIELD POTTERY

IN VICTORIAN TIMES, FLOWERS WERE USED TO COMMUNICATE AN INCREDIBLE VARIETY OF SENTIMENTS, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN COUPLES. IN KEEPING WITH THIS TRADITION, THIS NEW GARDEN WEDDING BIRDBATH IS DESIGNED WITH TO SYMBOLIZE THE SENTIMENTS OF MARRIAGE: ROSES FOR LOVE, LAVENDER FOR DEVOTION, IVY FOR FRIENDSHIP, FERN FOR SINCERITY, DAISIES FOR KINDNESS, AND ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE. EACH LIGHTLY HAND-TINTED WITH A HAND-RUBBED FINISH. SPECIAL SALE!



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SENIOR CENTER NEWS

July begins a new fiscal year for the Town. The Council on Aging, which advises its director and the Senior Center Director, is receiving the same amount of funding from the town (\$48,810) as last year, along with a small grant from the state, which is also level funded. No surprise in these tough economic times.

What can we expect from the COA and the Senior Center in FY2010?

As director beginning the third year of his tenure, my answer is—pretty much the same, with some improvement and hope for the future.

Councils on Aging were first established in 1956 "for the purpose of coordinating or carrying out programs designed to meet the problems of the aging in coordination with programs of the Department of Elder Affairs." Sheffield established its Council on Aging in the early 1970s and rented office and program space from the Friendly Union at Dewey Hall, where it still has a home today. Individual councils throughout the Commonwealth have evolved and developed unique personalities influenced by whom they serve, the personalities of the staff, community priorities, changing political policy and economics. Sheffield's council has experienced evolution and developed its own personality as well.

The interest and push for an independent facility for Sheffield's Senior Center has been championed and debated for quite some time. The Sheffield Senior Center

Building Committee, a group appointed by the Board of Selectmen and informally chaired at the moment by the Town Administrator, is still meeting to discuss alternatives. At this writing there have been some developments but no definite plans approved because of financial limitations and concerns.

With the present facility at Dewey Hall much can be still be continued in FY2010.

The regular exercise classes that meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings continue to rise and fall in attendance affected by the weather and cyclical interest. The fee is \$3 per person per session, and with the general increase in numbers, the program is nearly self-supporting. Summer sessions continue in the air-conditioned space of the Board of Selectmen

meeting room at Town Hall. (Housatonic Valley Art League shows occupy the space at Dewey Hall in July and August).

Lawn Chair Movie Tuesdays continue every week in one of the three spaces at Dewey Hall—the main assembly hall, the stage area, or the office—depending upon space availability and attendance.

Monthly Third Thursday Luncheons, blood pressure clinics, health screening clinics, foot clinics, and hearing clinics continue, though the lack of a dedicated private space for the clinics sometimes presents a challenge to privacy requirements.

Other activities, such as the Out to Lunch Bunch, field trips, Outdoor Café, and speakers and programs, both entertaining and informational, will also continue. (Some of the programs are sponsored by the Cultural Council.)

Increased numbers of drop-ins and of calls for information and referrals point to a stronger and larger need in the area of outreach in FY2010. The difficulty is the increased staffing needed to continue present activities while improving upon, expanding and satisfying an increasing need. With level funding this year, improvements and added programming can only be accomplished with an increase in volunteer help. I hope the community will support a fulltime staff starting in FY2011 so we can improve the advocacy, programming, outreach, information and referrals for the senior citizens of Sheffield. Let us move to the next level!

WASTE DISPOSAL

Sheffield residents can dispose of household hazardous waste—oil-based paint and solvents, pool chemicals, insecticides, oven cleaner, mercury thermometers, rechargeable batteries, etc.—on Sat., July 11, at the Stockbridge Recycling Center, 1 West Stockbridge Rd., 9am to noon. TVs and computers will be accepted for a fee of \$15 or more, depending on size.

Sheffield residents can also dispose of oil-based paint and motor oil at these locations:

- Wed., July 29, at the Lenox Dept. of Public Works, 275 Main St., 4:30 to 6:30pm.

- Sat., Aug. 22, 9-11:30am at the Great Barrington Recycling Center, Route 7 across from Monument Mountain High School.

Latex paint is not accepted; empty or dried-up paint cans can be disposed of with regular trash, as can empty cans of oil-based paint and solvents.

Pre-registration is required for these events. Call 1-800-238-1221, ext. 30, or e-mail robt@cetonline.org.

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FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

4/27—Town Administrator Joe Kellogg explained the proposed FY2010 budget that will be voted on at the annual Town Meeting. Questions were asked on various sections of the budget and the warrant articles.

Chairman Julie Hannum announced that James Kelly has requested appointment to the Economic Development Committee and Anthony Gulotta to be appointed as Planning Board Alternate Member. Action will take place at the next meeting on May 18.

Chairman Hannum recognized Bill Connell and Neal Chamberlain for their work on the Housatonic River canoe access projects. A grant request for \$7,800 has been submitted to the Natural Resource Damages Fund from the GE settlement to treat invasive species along the river. The Board also unanimously agreed to send a letter of response to the Engineering & Environmental Solutions Group regarding plans for the canoe access on Covered Bridge Park. [See story on page 3.]

The Board approved a sign permit for a temporary roadside event sign for the Five Friends Art Show at the Stone Store and for the Housatonic Valley Art League at Dewey Hall.

The Board approved a curb cut permit for the Dube property on West Stahl Rd.

Chairman Hannum thanked the Kiwanis and the Ashley Falls Improvement Society for the roadside clean up events held last weekend. She noted that the Town Hall parking lot is nearing completion. She noted that an Arbor Day celebration was held in the Village Green on Apr. 24. The Board unanimously approved an application from Tom Ingersoll to the National Arbor Day Foundation to have Sheffield recognized as a Tree City, USA.

Administrator Kellogg stated that many comments have been received regarding the Pay as You Throw system of trash disposal. Informational meetings will be held in May to allow residents to voice their opinions on the proposed system. [See story on page 1.]

Chairman Hannum and Administrator Kellogg noted that this would be the last meeting for Selectman Jim Collingwood and acknowledged his many years of service to the Town on various boards

and committees.

Pauline Schumann, president of The Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center, was present to discuss the future plans for a senior center. Discussion ensued regarding the construction of a center and the possibility of additions to either Dewey Hall or the American Legion building. Schumann also inquired about The Friends assisting the American Legion with repairs to its building.

Rene Wood stated that five of her campaign signs have been destroyed. She has filed a police report and asked the Board to acknowledge that this is unacceptable behavior. Chairman Hannum responded that she agreed this was unacceptable behavior

5/6—Susan Hagen, partnership specialist for the U. S. Census Bureau, was present to explain that work on the census has begun. From April to June 6, workers will be knocking on doors for address verification. The workers will be local people who have been through a security screening. They will wear official badges and carry GPS handheld implements. The actual count will be in April 2010. At that time any resident with a post office box as an address will be visited by a counter.

Selectman David Macy announced that Kevin Schmitz has requested appointment to the Economic Development Committee.

The Board discussed the Proposition 2½ override questions to be on the ballot. Andy Fetterhoff from the School Committee worked to get a member from each of the Boards of Selectmen from Sheffield, Alford, Egremont, Monterey and New Marlborough as well as the School Committee members to meet about a compromise on how the school budget is shared among the five towns. This amendment would involve a change in the regional agreement to lower the need for an override for Sheffield for Fiscal Year 2010 from \$305,000 to \$177,000. [See story on page 1.]

David Smith Jr. reminded residents of the roadside cleanup in Sheffield on April 19 and in Ashley Falls on April 18.

5/15—The Board of Selectmen reviewed

Some Board of Selectmen's meetings are aired on CTSB Cable Channel 16.

Check schedule for times. .

and unanimously approved the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and the Finance Committee recommendations. The warrant contains 27 articles and will be posted on the Town Website tomorrow. 5/18—Following the town elections on May 11, Chairman Hannum welcomed new Selectman David Smith, Jr., to the Board. As is customary, board officers were changed. Selectman Macy was elected Chairman and Selectman Hannum Clerk.

After opening a public hearing on the matter, the Board unanimously agreed to grant a wine and malt liquor license to The Marketplace on Elm Court.

Neal Chamberlain presented the Board with pictures and information regarding town-owned property along the Housatonic River on Maple Ave. that he would like to promote as a public canoe access. The Police Chief has been contacted regarding parking and the Conservation Commission has been contracted regarding removing vegetation along the path to the river. Chamberlain will coordinate a group of volunteers to clear the path and will work with Administrator Kellogg to obtain a sign for the site and with the Town highway crew to remove or chip the brush that is cut. The Board unanimously agreed to support the efforts. Selectman Hannum noted that there will be a meeting at Covered Bridge Park on Tuesday to review the changes to the plan for the canoe access there.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association has sent an agreement for FY10 for services to the Town. The Finance Committee approved a level-funded amount of \$3,096. The Board agreed to amend the agreement amount to \$3,096.

Administrator Kellogg noted that he recently attended a meeting regarding a coalition of 11 towns to create a 75-mile biking path from Vermont to Connecticut. No request for funding has been made at this point. The Board unanimously agreed to approve a request from the Berkshire Bike Path Council that the Town sign a memorandum of understanding in support of the project.

Administrator Kellogg explained

Continued on page 16

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, continued from page 15

that the Southern Berkshire Broadband Committee has been investigating broadband options including expanded cable services. To complete this process, information inventories on each utility pole must be obtained. National Grid has concerns about this information being public and has requested a non-disclosure agreement from the Town that will exempt this information from the public records law. The Board unanimously agreed to do so.

The Board agreed to hold two informational sessions on the Pay as You Throw trash disposal system on May 27, and June 11 at Town Hall.

Selectman Smith thanked the voters for the great turnout on Election Day.

Administrator Kellogg noted that Annual Reports are available at Town Hall and on the Town's web site.

Anna James, the manager for the Farmer's Market, has requested permission for the market to be held on Friday afternoons. Discussions ensued regarding parking and the Village Green merchants. The Board unanimously agreed to grant

permission for the Farmer's Market.

Dan Jimmerson from The Marketplace was present to discuss the possibility of holding a Cheese and Craft Beer Festival at the Town Park. The proceeds would be donated to a local cause to be determined. Jimmerson was directed to talk with Michael Ovitt for open dates at the Town Park and to contact the Administrator's office with further information on the plans for the festival.

Catherine Miller gave an update on the Town Hall parking lot. The benches and the bike rack have been received and assembled. Pavers for the Walk of Names are still for sale.

6/1—Following the recount in the town election that reversed the election of David Smith, Jr., Chairman Macy welcomed Selectman Rene Wood to the Board.

Chairman Macy opened a new public hearing for a wine and malt license for The Marketplace Café on Elm Court. *[The Board discovered after the May 18 hearing that the applicant had not notified*

abutters of the application, per state law. The hearing thus had to be held again after notice to the abutters.] Dan Jimmerson was present to represent The Marketplace. Richard Magenis of 43 Elm Court voiced concerns with parking and the hours of operations if the license is granted. Jordan and Laura Green of 86 Main St. voiced concerns with noise levels if the license allows outside activity. The applicant did not include outside activities in the application. Con and Genevieve Roche sent a letter expressing concern with noise and parking. Carmella Delmolino of 23 Elm Court also had concerns. Jimmerson responded to each of those expressing concern and stated that the hours of operation will not change unless the café is hosting a special event. Jimmerson also noted that under The Marketplace's current brown bag policy there have not been any complaints. The Board unanimously agreed to grant the license during the hours of 11am and 7pm with the condition that The Marketplace come before the Board on a case-by-case basis for increased hours of operations for special events.

Selectman Hannum noted that the MA Commission for the Status on



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Women has named Inez Flinn as an Unsung Heroine for her work as a volunteer. The Board presented Flinn with a citation from the Town in recognition of her volunteer work.

The Board unanimously approved the following appointments: Andrew J. Carlson, Graham Michael Frank and Daniel T. Hamill as Reserve Intermittent Police Officers for a one-year term and Anthony J. Gulotta as Planning Board Associate Member for a term to expire June 30, 2010.

Chairman Macy read a list of vacancies and the names of applicants requesting appointment for the coming year. *[All who requested appointment were appointed; see table at right.]* Discussion ensued regarding the Board of Health and Economic Development Committee. Anyone interested in any vacancy should submit a letter of interest to the Board. Action on the requests will take place on June 15.

The Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad provides service to Sheffield but has never had a formal agreement with the town. The Board authorized Chairman Macy to sign such an agreement.

Selectman Wood moved to rescind the vote of the Board of Selectmen on Mar. 30 to adopt a pay as you throw system for trash disposal. Discussion

ensued on the motion and on the trash disposal system. The motion failed for lack of a second. *[The Board rescinded the vote at its June 18 working meeting; see page 1.]*

The Board unanimously agreed to extend the agreement with Cable Television of Southern Berkshires for two years as long as there are no significant changes in the agreement language.

Borestone LLC and Four Corners LLC, purchasers of property in the Town Business Park, have requested an extension of the original agreement with the town regarding the start of development. They said they would begin construction by Dec. 31, 2010. They will also apply to the Planning Board for an extension of their Special Permit. The Board unani-

mously agreed to grant the extension.

Selectman Wood expressed concerns with the crosswalks on Main St. and a tree branch that blocks the crosswalk sign. Administrator Kellogg will contact Mass Highway to request that the crosswalks be painted.

Selectman Wood stated that she would like to volunteer to work on the issue of General Motors closing Berkshire GMC to see if there is any way the Board could help the dealership remain open. Chairman Macy and Selectman Hannum said that they support Selectman Wood in the matter.

Selectman Hannum welcomed Selectman Wood to the Board.

Selectman Hannum recognized

Catherine Miller for being named Rotary Citizen of the Year.

The Board agreed to approve funds for the application of herbicides to remove invasive Japanese knotweed at the Covered Bridge Park.

John Arthur Miller, Senior Center director, invited the Board to attend a lunch honoring volunteers at the Egremont Country Club. Asking as a resident, he inquired about the tree removal by National Grid along Route 7. Discussion ensued.

The Board agreed to approve a temporary roadside event sign for the Sheffield Friendly Union's Father's Day Pancake Breakfast.

The Board went into executive session at 8:30 to discuss pending litigation strategy.

APPOINTMENTS TO TOWN POSITIONS ON JUNE 15

More volunteers are needed. See page 20.

Agricultural Commission	Morven Allen, Dominic Palumbo
Agricultural Commission Alternates	Ruth Ziegler, David Smith, Sr.
Animal Inspector	Richard Boardman
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission	Richard Swiatek
Board of Assessors	Barbara West
Board of Registrars	Elizabeth Smith, Patricia Sadera
Conservation Commission	Cheryl Blackburn
Constable	James M. McGarry
Council on Aging	Richard Magenis, Lovina Gulotta
Cultural Council	David Reed
Disabilities Commission	Jack Pollitt
Electrical Inspector	Richard Cappadona
Assistant Electrical Inspector	Ken Kushi
Emergency Management Coordinator	Edward McCormick
Five Town Cable Advisory Committee	George Oleen, Paul O'Brien
Plumbing and Gas Inspector	Robert Krupski
Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector	Robert Gennari
Park and Recreation Committee	Grace Campbell, Joseph Wilkinson, Vito Valentini, Michael C. Ovitt
Parking Clerk I Vacancy	Felecie Joyce
Police Dept.	Susan Rathbun, Brian Fahey, Ryan Kresiak, Jacob Gonska, Eric Munson, Sheryl Johnson, Scott Farrell, Gary Mitchell, Michael C. Ovitt, Gregory H. Priest, Richard L. Robarge
Public Weigher	Michael Pezzee, Patricia Gillespie, Clifford Twiss
Recycling Coordinator	David Steindler
South Berkshire District Veterans' Service Delegate	Richard Kirchner
Special Town Counsel	Kopelman and Paige, Mirick O'Connell
Town Clerk	Felecie Joyce
Town Counsel	Sarah Bell
Zoning Board of Appeals	Jack Pollitt

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

During the meetings from April 9 through June 25, the Planning Board conducted the following business:

At the May 14 meeting, following the Town Election, the Board elected new officers: chair, Christopher Tomich; vice chair, David Smith, Sr.; treasurer, Timothy Fulco; and secretary, Margaret Martin. The Board also welcomed newly elected member Peter Cherneff.

At that meeting, the Board also endorsed a Form A (approval not required for development) application for Edward A. Delmolino III to divide acreage surrounding the house and other buildings from the acreage to be put under an agricultural preservation restriction. At the June 25 meeting, the Board endorsed a Form A application

for the Town of Sheffield Fire Station, which has acquired additional property in order to build an addition to the station.

On June 11, the Board held and closed a public hearing on the special permit application of James Cavanaugh for a sign larger than what is permitted by right. The Board deliberated on this application at the June 25 meeting and granted it by a 5-0 vote with some conditions, which are yet to be recorded and published by the Board as of presstime.

In addition, at that meeting, Rene Wood was named as an alternate delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. David Smith, Sr., is the Planning Board delegate to the commission.

The Board continues to be concerned about the violation of Rock Solid's special permit and has asked the Town building inspector to enforce the conditions, which require Rock Solid to store



materials properly.

The Signage By-Law Committee is not meeting this summer because its members cannot take the time away from work. It will resume work in the fall.

The Board is designating specific meetings to work on changes to the bylaws that will facilitate Planning Board work with citizens of Sheffield. All suggestions are welcome.

Planning Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7pm. Notices of special permit hearings and minutes are posted on the Town's website, www.sheffieldma.gov. All are welcome at the meetings.

—Nadia Milleron,
secretary to the Planning Board

Find phone numbers, news, meeting minutes and agendas at the Sheffield town website:
www.sheffieldma.gov

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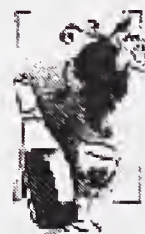


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TOWN HALL NEWS

Easy way to get news. The notification feature on the Town website is now operational. If you sign up on the site (click on the button at the bottom of the home page and follow the links), you will automatically receive announcements of meetings or notices when, say, the official results of the 2009 Town Meeting are posted to the website.

"This is a great, effortless way to find out what's going on without having to remember to check the website," said Joe Kellogg, Town Administrator. "If you decide you don't want to get the notices, it's just as easy to unsubscribe."

Composters at a discount. The Town is considering ordering compost bins for resale to residents. We need at least 20 commitments to place an order with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. There are two types available: the Earth Machine, \$38, and the New Age Composter, \$53. Both are easy to assemble, rodent-resistant and allow for efficient aerobic composting. They are made from at least 50 percent post-consumer recycled plastic collected or processed in Massachusetts. An average household can compost between 500 and 1,000 pounds of organic material each year in one of these bins. If you are interested, call Town Hall at 229-7000, Ext. 152, or email jkellogg@sheffieldma.gov.

TOWN CLERK

Sporting/hunting and fishing licenses. Licenses for 2009 are available, as well as archery, waterfowl and primitive arms stamps. Please provide a previous year's license or copy of a hunter safety certificate for a sporting/hunting license. Note that requests for antlerless deer permits (doe tags) must be postmarked by July 16 for a chance to qualify.

For further information, go to the town website at www.sheffield.ma.gov; click on "Town Departments," then "Town Clerk" and follow the link "Hunting information for Sheffield area" to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website (www.mass.gov/masswildlife).

Dog licenses. Please remember if you have a dog six months of age or older and you live in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, you are required to license your dog. Contact the office at 229-7000, ext. 151, for further information.

Voter registration. Registration is available year round. Contact the Town Clerk's office, or visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sec.state.ma.us/e.

ASSESSOR'S & COLLECTORS

The annual deadline for Chapter 61A and 61B is October 1. Sorry, no exceptions! If you have questions, call 229-7000, ext. 155.

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ANIMALS AT SCHOOL GET A NEW BARN

A brand new barn with some brand new farm animals will be an exciting addition to the Mt. Everett High School grounds. Thanks to grants from both the Janet/Eagles Fund as well as Mass Ag in the Classroom, Mt. Everett students have been vigorously working on building the newest addition to the Mt. Everett school grounds. Ten students, along with construction technology teacher Curtis VonRuden, are building the barn.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ON TOWN BOARDS

Most of the people listed in the appointments box on page 17 are people who volunteer some of their time in service to their town. There are many more opportunities available.

The following have one or more vacancies: Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Board of Assessors, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Disabilities Commission, Historical Commission, Housing Commission, and Economic Development Committee.

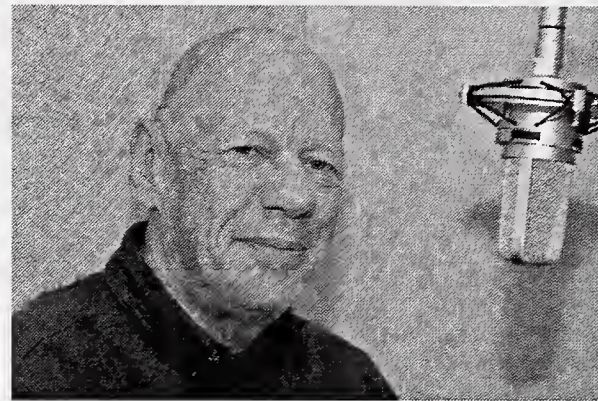
People interested in serving should send a letter to the Board of Selectmen at Town Hall, or email the Town Administrator at jkellogg@sheffieldma.gov.

Though Mt. Everett recently had two goats roaming the grounds, a barn will be more suitable quarters for the animals. Cassie Uricchio, the animal science teacher, has played an important role in the process of building the barn. "We are going to try and do animal rotation," she explains, "We will rotate between goats as well as baby calves and so on."

Though the students have been hard at work at constructing the barn, VonRuden expects it to be finished by December 1.

The students have nothing but good things to say about their experience. "It's fun, though it's scary sometimes," junior Ryan Brown said. Asked how it feels to have helped build part of the school, Ryan said, "It's good. It gives me something to do, and I can't wait to show my kids one day what I helped do."

—Tony Phillips and
Jhori Jurgenson



Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic.

Sheffield resident Don Freedman takes a break from reading at the nonprofit organization's annual Record-a-Thon. Don has been volunteering at the Lenox studio for several years, specializing in science and math textbooks.

TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Sheffield Town Hall main number
229-7000

Assessor	x 155
Board of Selectmen	x 152
Building Inspector	x 156
Tax Collector	x 153
Town Administrator	x 152
Town Clerk	x 151
Fire Dept. non-emergency	229-7033
Library	229-7004
Police Dept. non-emergency	229-8522
Transfer Station	229-7019

Are You On The A-List?

Those already on the A-List know that the Cottages and Cobble Suites at Noble Horizons are the most coveted senior housing in the area. They also know that these accommodations wait for no one.

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- ☐ Schedule a tour of the Cottages or Cobble Suites
- ☐ Fill out and return a Cottage application with no entry fee or application fee to pay
- ☐ Get a list of the perks

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KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

From Little League... Kiwanis activities in May and June focused on Little League program. Our refreshment trailer opened for business on most days when both Town Park fields were in use. We generally had staff there from 5 to 8pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and some Thursdays. The season has officially ended, so that means our old reliable trailer, the Princess Kiwi, will now be retired. Steve Shmulsky has completed renovations on the new Kiwanis trailer: the King Kiwana Kafe, which makes its debut at the first Saturday concert of the Berkshire Choral Festival.

...to choral festival. The five-week music season on the Berkshire School Campus will have Kiwanians busy nearly seven days a week. The first batch of singers arrives on Sun., July 12. Kiwanis offers a full cocktail bar daily from 4:30 to 6pm at Shawn's Place, the student snack bar in the lounge area just below the dining hall. The saloon reopens about 9:30pm for an hour or more after evening rehearsals.

For the Saturday night concerts, Kiwanians park the cars in three lots around campus. The new refreshment trailer, the King Kiwana, is open before the concert and during intermission for food and drink. The final choral concert is on Sat., Aug. 15.

Convention. The weekend of August 14-16 is also the date for this year's New England District Kiwanis Convention. Many of our members usually attend, but some may have to stay behind to close out work at the choral festival. The convention this year returns to Warwick, RI, a favorite venue between Providence and Newport.

Picnics and players. On June 9, Kiwanis hosted many of our 2009 Scholarship recipients at a picnic in the Town Park. About half the 30-plus winners were able to attend with parents and friends (many were already working summer jobs). This year's awards totaled just over \$32,000. They'll be mailed in January 2010.

Our gratitude is extended to all the sponsors and players who made another of our annual golf tournaments a success. The participants enjoyed food, food and more food all during the meet and even more at the end from the hors-d'oeuvres table and at the sit-down dinner that followed. Prizes were handed out and raffle winners chose their "loot" with pleasure. David "Smitty" Smith and Cathy and Fred Finkle headed the hard-working committee.

Trash patrol, food duty. Steve Shmulsky continues to gather a random group of eight Kiwanis members to trudge along our two-mile portion of Route 7 once a month gathering roadside trash and keeping the Southern Berkshires beautiful. Marge Kirchner and David Smith, Sr., assemble a crew about every seven weeks to offer our food and service at the Breaking Bread soup kitchen, which is open every Thursday at the American Legion Hall here in Sheffield.

End of summer. Our final major event of the summer is our steak roast, now part of the Sheffield Fair at the Town Park, on Sat., Sept. 12. We will once again be working with the Sheffield firemen on the event. Amidst the other fair activities, our silent auction will start at 2:30pm. Serving of the steak dinner (with baked potato, sweet corn, salad and desserts) begins at 5pm. The price remains a reasonable \$25 per person, with hamburgers and hotdogs available for kids. The ticket includes one free beverage (wine, beer or soda).

AMERICAN LEGION

Post 340 is holding its Annual Chicken Barbeque at the Legion grounds off Route 7 on Aug. 16, from noon to 3pm.

Proceeds from this event benefit Post 340's youth activities. The post awards annual scholarships. It sponsors a baseball team and sends students to Massachusetts Boys State and the Student Trooper program. It sponsors Cub and Boy Scout programs in Sheffield and the American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Our post needs community support of its fund-raisers to maintain these programs. We appreciate your support. Please put the date for the BBQ on your calendar, and ask your friends to join you.



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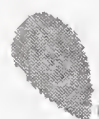
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THE HOUSATONIC RIVER, SHEFFIELD'S WATERY HEART

A few days ago I passed a woman painting a scene of river and farmland on Rannapo Rd. at the point where the Housatonic River slams into the stone of Bartholomew's Cobble and is forced to make a giant meander on its continuing trip south. I've marveled at this spot, this scene many times, in fact, almost daily. I have been inspired there in my own way, as a naturalist looking at nature and its forces. I have admired the bank swallows as they catch flying insects and swoop to deliver them to broods in subterranean nests in the embankment. I have watched the bobcat here stalking some unseen rodent. It is a magical place.

Others come to the river to take pictures, watch birds, kayak and canoe, fish, or just to sit in quiet solitude. The Housatonic means different things to many people. It is a defining feature of our town, a ribbon of life that winds its way through farmland and past homes.

Sometimes it is gentle enough to fish from a canoe, other times it's a torrent flooding its banks and closing roads.

Whatever mood it is in, we are lucky to have such a river here in Sheffield. In fact, we have it to thank for the quality of life we all enjoy. With mountains "far" off to the east and west of us, the river is unconstrained and does what it pleases throughout the valley. In doing so, it deposits a rich sediment of soil and minerals, some from as far away as the summit of Mt. Greylock, every year. Multiply this by thousands of years and we get the fertile soil that can grow just about anything we put in it! The river makes Sheffield's gorgeous, bucolic farms possible, along with the tenacity and love of those that work the land. Hal Borland, a naturalist and columnist who owned a farm along the Housatonic just south of the Cobble once wrote, "Any river is really the summation of the

whole valley. To think of it as nothing but water is to ignore the greater part."

Though the river is kind to us, we have not always been kind to her. Ever since Col. John Ashley arrived in the Berkshires, we have dammed the Housatonic and its tributaries for water power. We have built woolen mills, paper mills, sawmills, gristmills, tanneries and other forms of industry. During this era the pristine river was turned into a sewer, where all manner of industrial and household waste and trash were dumped. My father, who lives in Pittsfield, remembers when the river would run red one day and yellow the next depending on the dye the woolen mills were using. In the 1970s, he reported two huge fish kills caused by Crane and Co. releasing some chemical into the river. Of course the greatest defacing of that time, one that faces us still today, is General Electric's

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE AND ASHLEY HOUSE EVENTS

Sunday Canoe Trips

Sundays, 8:30-11:30am. All equipment is provided for a guided paddle on a scenic section of the Housatonic River, rich with wildlife and bald eagles. Adult \$30; child \$15. Members: adult \$24; child \$10. Please pre-register.

Reptile Roundup

Sat. Jul. 11, 10am-noon. Learn to find and safely handle snakes, turtles and frogs with the Conservation Ranger. For ages 6 and up with an adult. Family \$15; member family \$12. Please pre-register.

Live Raptors with Tom Ricardi

Sat., Jul. 18, 10am-noon. Wildlife rehabilitator Tom Ricardi brings hawks, owls, and even a bald eagle and tells their stories. Adult \$10; child (6-12) \$5. Members: adult \$8; child \$4. Please pre-register.

Ancient Living Skills

Sat., Jul. 25, 10am-noon. Learn to stay warm, well fed, and healthy in the wild. Hands-on workshop for ages 12 through adult. \$30; members \$20. Please pre-register.

Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open 9am-4:30pm. From Rt. 7 in the center of Sheffield, travel south and turn right on Rt. 7A and follow for 0.5 mile. Turn right

Moonlight Paddle

Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9pm. Watch and listen for wildlife on this special outing. All equipment provided. Adult \$30; child (10-12) \$15. Members: adult \$24; child \$10. Please pre-register.

Joseph Firecrow in Concert

Sat., Aug. 22, 4-6pm. Enjoy Native American flute and drum music on scenic Hurlburt's Hill. Adult \$15; child (6-16) \$5. Members: adult \$12; children free. Please pre-register. Rain date is Sunday.

Thursday Eco-Volunteers

Thursdays, 9am-noon. Learn how to identify and remove common invasive plants and protect biodiversity. Free. Call for information.

Coming in September & October

Fall Colors Canoe Trip, Sept. Sundays, Labor Day Sept. 7, Columbus Day Oct. 12; Moonlight Paddle, Fri. Sept. 4 and Sat., Oct. 3; Sunset Serenade with Bagpiper Don Worth, Sat., Sept. 12; Hawk Migration, Sat. Sept. 19; Pottery, Poetry & Place, Sat. Oct. 3; Across the Fields History Walk, Sat. Oct. 3; Lichen and Moss Walk, Sun. Oct. 4

on Rannapo Rd. and follow for 1.5 mile. Turn right on Weatogue Rd. to the entrance and parking on the left. Regular admission is free for members of the Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield residents. Non-members: \$5 per adult, \$1 per child. To register for events, call 229-8600 or email bcobble@ttor.org.

dumping of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These probable carcinogens stick to river sediment and gradually work their way into and poison the river's food chain.

But the life of the river remains rich and varied. Borland once wrote, "Though a hundred things may be wrong [with the world], a thousand things are right." While he wasn't specifically talking about the Housatonic, I am sure he would agree that his words apply to it today.

Unlike many rivers out east, the banks of the Housatonic are relatively free of development. Instead our stretch of river passes through farmland and floodplain forests. We have bald eagles nesting in Sheffield, close to the river again. I have seen otter, mink, beavers, osprey, great egrets and large rafts of waterfowl. In the water are huge smallmouth bass and northern pike, as well as rare fish like the long-nosed sucker.

Human news along the river includes the creation of new canoe

launches. (See the story on page 3.) A couple years ago legislation creating the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area gave the river and valley an elevated status. Recently, the Sheffield Land Trust helped protect forever the Howden Farm property that abuts the river north of the Cobble, and The Trustees of Reservations helped protect the Shady Maple Farm property that abuts the river to the south. The northern reaches of the river in Lee, Lenox, Pittsfield and Washington were just designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern by the state, which will insist on greater care being taken with projects that could impact the river and its ecological resources.

And GE, at the behest of the federal Environmental Protection Agency is finally cleaning up the PCBs. Already, the dredged section of river in Pittsfield is one of the largest river cleanups of its sort in history. Now, the EPA and GE are negotiating what sort of cleanup

happens to the rest of the river, including our stretch.

I have often thought of the good fortune that delivered me to this place. To manage a natural gem like Bartholomew's Cobble, to be surrounded by beauty incomparable, to be welcomed into a community of honest, hard-working people, to drive past farms and farmers who wave to you from tractors, to have bald eagles flying overhead, this is living. To have a river that defines this place, this time, in my life is a gift. I will always have a piece of this place within me, the Housatonic River is in my blood. It is inconceivable to me how someone could despoil this beautiful river, yet that was another time that I don't completely understand. What I do understand is that the river needs me now, needs us now, to respect it, protect it, advocate for it and nourish it as it has done us and our town.

—Rene Wendell, Conservation Ranger,
Bartholomew's Cobble



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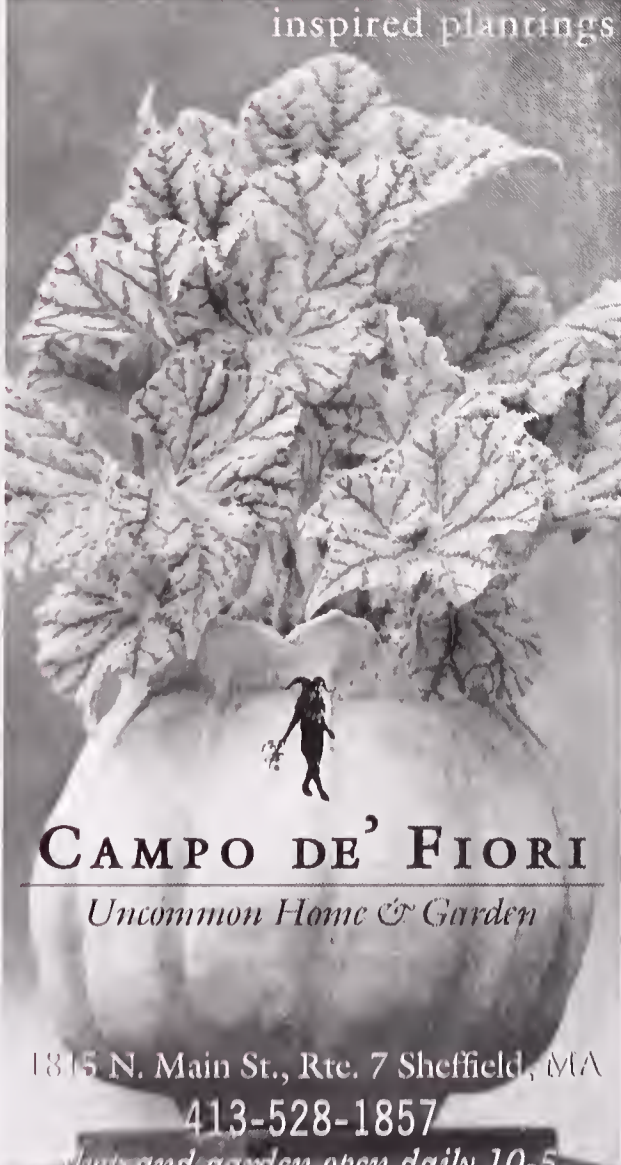
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS

Five Friends Art Exhibit. At the Stone Store through Sun., July 12. Walter Bogard, Hans Heuberger, Sean Ryder, Lois Ryder and Lois Van Clef return for their fourth year to the Old Stone Store with new and recent artwork. The exhibit dovetails with the Housatonic Valley Art League's Annual Juried Art Competition in Dewey Memorial Hall, where more of the friends' work will be featured. Gallery hours: Fridays, 11-6 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 11-4 pm.

"Clay-town," Sheffield ceramics exhibit. Sat., July 18-Sun., Sept. 13. In 1866 the Sheffield China Clay Company was established in Clayton (hence the name) to capitalize on the fine, soft white clay beds in the southeastern part of the town. Clay production was already a thriving industry, and the Sheffield beds were mined for the manufacture of pottery and fire brick. White clay, also known as china clay or kaolin, has many applications, but one of its early uses was for slip decorations on redware pottery.

The exhibit will integrate local historical research with the "sgraffito" and slipware designs of Rick Hamelin and Garine Arakelian of Warren, MA, selections from the collection of Carl Proper of Sheffield, and exemplar pieces from Samuel Herrup Antiques. There will be an opening recep-



Re-enactors at the May meeting. Lisa and Jonathan Reynolds of Sheffield (at right) were joined by Vivianlea Steven and David Soleck of Monroe, CT, in a reenactment program called "The Revolutionary Vogue." The program was well attended by history buffs from Berkshire and Litchfield Counties.

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tion on Sat., July 18, 1-3pm. Gallery Hours: Saturdays, 10-2 pm and Sundays, 11-3 pm.

Tavern Party. The Society invites everyone to join them for a convivial gathering in one of Sheffield's most historic homes on Sat., Aug. 29. The event will take place in the 18th century home of Carl Proper at 254 South Main St., from 4 to 7pm. Guests will have the opportunity to tour this remarkable brick home, seldom open to the public, including the downstairs tavern. The house's ownership has been traced back to James Dewey and Captain Stephen Dewey, a signer of the Sheffield Declaration. Light colonial refreshments will be served. Tickets are available from the Sheffield Historical Society for \$35, \$50 or \$100.

Little Family letter exhibit. Aug.-Oct.31. The Society recently acquired a collection of early 19th Century letters written from Sheffield to family members in Connecticut that sheds light on the town's day-to-day life of nearly 200 years ago. Ralph and Maria Fox Little were local merchants of more than average means. Their son, William H. Little, occupied the Dan Raymond House with his wife, Clara P. Little, as of 1884. They were the last long-term owners of the house before the Society established its headquarters on the premises. The exhibit will be at the Dan Raymond House. The date of the reception will be announced; check local media closer to the event.



Mad Hatter Day. Everyone enjoyed wearing hats on June 20, one of the Society's events for the whole family.

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LAND TRUST NEWS AND EVENTS

The Land Trust's Annual Meeting at Quarry Hill Farm celebrated the start of the Land Trust's 20th Anniversary and the upcoming conservation of the farm and associated land on Lime Kiln Rd. The event was hosted by Ed Delmolino whose family has owned the farm for three generations. He is protecting 186 acres of farmland and wildlife habitat, 128 acres under an Agricultural Preservation Restriction to be purchased by the state—with the Land Trust raising the required local funds—and another 58 acres on Lime Kiln Rd., which will be purchased by the state Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife. The 58 acres will include public access to a favorite fishing spot at the bridge.

Past Land Trust presidents Nancy Smith, Deborah Reich and Peter Stiglin spoke about what has been accomplished since the Land Trust's 1989 founding and the essential link between conservation, people and community. Current president John Wightman spoke about the significant accomplishments of the last year and the coming challenge of raising funds for the Sheffield-Egremont Corridor Initiative, of which the Quarry Hill Farm project is a part. The Land Trust needs to raise some \$2 million in the next few years to leverage several times that amount from federal, state and foundation sources. The Quarry Hill project is almost \$1.5 million with the Land Trust having raised \$80,000 of the \$180,000 local share. To contribute to the Corridor, contact the Land Trust at (413) 229-0234, P.O. Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257 or www.sheffieldland.org.

School visits. In early June the three second-grade classes



Annual meeting. More than 150 attended the Land Trust's annual meeting, held at Ed Delmolino's Quarry Hill Farm on the Sheffield-Egremont Rd. Above, Ed speaks about the history of the farm and how he came to the decision to leave this legacy for future generations.

from Undermountain Elementary School visited Moon in the Pond Farm and the Land Trust office to learn about farming and mapping. This is the eighth year that the Land Trust has sponsored these field trips.

Agricultural fair. This year's Agricultural Fair June 12 at Mt. Everett High School was a huge success thanks to the hard work of the students of the FFA (Future Farmers of America) Chapter and their advisor, biology teacher Cassie Uricchio. Everyone did double-duty due to the weather, setting up tents outside for the animals and arranging the exhibits inside the gymnasium.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

April

- 4 Marilyn J. Brooks to Scott W. Bartzsch & Timothy S. Rice, property at 119 Park Lane, \$259,000.
- 9 Barry W. and Brenda Van Deusen to Paul F. Moritz III, property at 226 Hulett Hill Rd., \$172,500.
- 16 Walter D. III and Laureen Hewins to Walter IV and Kendra Hewins, property at 200 Alum Hill Rd., \$162,500.

- 23 The Loring Gallerey, LTD to Jared and Lindsey N. Smith, property at 690 N. Main St., \$115,000.

May

- 5 Donna L. Malin to Aimee K. Michel and John K. Lawson, property at 390 Maple Ave., \$287,500.
- 15 Theresa S. Graney, as guardian, to Adam J. Kohlhepp and Virginia T. Watkins, property at 71 Park Lane, \$225,000.

FIRE LOG—Rick Boardman, Chief

April

- 16 Brush fire at 270 County Rd. Time out: 10:11am. Time in: 10:57am.
- 20 Brush fire at 25 School St. Time out: 3:17pm. Time in: 4:02pm.
- 20 Mutual aid for Great Barrington Fire Dept. Time out: 4:30pm. Time in: 5:30pm.
- 21 False alarm at Mt. Everett Regional High School. Canceled.
- 21 False alarm at 1939 N. Main St. Time out: 6:15pm. Time in: 6:52pm.
- 25 Brush fire at 290 East Rd. Time out: 3:24pm. Time in: 4:48pm.
- 28 Brush fire at Mt. Everett Regional High School. Time out: 6:01pm. Time in: 6:35pm.
- 29 Brush fire at Polikoff Rd. Time out: 10:09am. Time in: 10:17am.
- 30 Bad smoke detector at 1850 Route 7 North. Time out: 7:24am. Time in: 7:50am.
- 30 Stand by for Great Barrington Fire Dept. at brush fire. Time out: 1:47pm. Time in: 4:16pm.
- 30 Smoke detector at 79 Seekonk Rd. for Great Barrington Fire Dept. Time out: 3:00pm. Time in: 3:20pm.

May

- 3 Stand by for Canaan, CT, Fire Dept. Time out: 2:22pm. Time in: 5:11pm.
- 5 False alarm at the Option Institute, Undermountain Rd. Time out: 10:53am. Time in: 10:55am.
- 6 Extinguish campfire at 355 Salisbury Rd. Time out: 12:37am. Time in: 12:55am.
- 9 False alarm caused by burned toast at 233 Miller Ave. Time out: 8:14am. Time in: 8:19am.
- 10 Person under paving roller on Shunpike Rd. Time out: 1:40pm. Time in: 2:08pm.
- 20 Smoke in building at 30 Cross Rd. Time out: 6:59pm. Time in: 8:15pm.
- 23 Car accident at 1725 Hewins St. Time out: 2:56am. Time in: 3:50am.
- 23 Four-wheeler accident. Time out: 7:37pm. Time in: 8:17pm.
- 25 False alarm at Dewey Hall. Time out: 2:24am. Time in: 2:40am.
- 25 Car rollover on Route 7. Time out: 6:19pm. Time in: 7:03pm.
- 26 False alarm at Dewey Hall. Time out: 2:26am. Time in: 2:45am.

June

- 6 Lifting assistance with ambulance at 137 Polikoff Rd. Time out: 10:36am. Time in: 10:57am.

Calendar Page

July

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 11 Dewey Hall folk series, 8pm, at Old Parish (p. 7)
- 12 Art exhibit opens at Stone Store (p. 24)
- 16 Antlerless deer and bear permit deadline (p. 15)
- 17 Book talk at Library, 6:30pm (p. 13)
- 18 Berkshire Choral Festival opens season (p. 7)
- 18 China exhibit opens at Stone Store (p. 24)

August

- 2 Dewey Hall folk series, 8pm, at Old Parish (p. 7)
- 7 Old Parish Antiques show opens; also Aug. 8 and 9 (p. 11)
- 15 **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ISSUE**
- 16 American Legion BBQ, 12pm (p. 21)
- 27 Historical Society Tavern Party, 4pm, at Proper House (p. 25)

September

- 7 LABOR DAY
- 12 Sheffield Fair at the Town Park (p. 28)

See also the listings for Sheffield Kiwanis (p. 21)
and Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 22)

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ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. “1st, 3rd” indicates meetings on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed. Town functions listed first.

Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays

Mondays:

Building Inspector, 7am-12 noon
Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th (2nd only for winter)
Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

Building Inspector, 7am-12 noon
Council on Aging, 5pm, 2nd
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am
Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1st

Thursdays:

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th
Building Inspector, Town Hall, Thurs. 3pm-6 pm
Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30am
** Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd*
** Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd*

Fridays

Building Inspector, 7-10am
Farmers' market, 3:30-6:30pm

Saturdays:

Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, 8pm, 1st
Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3rd

Sundays:

Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

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New this year: 4-H and FFA Exhibits & animals.

(And don't forget the Kiwanis Auction & Steak Roast - page 21 for details)

Questions about the Celebration or selling, exhibiting or volunteering at the Fair:
Dave Smith (413) 229-9956 or westhill483@hotmail.com.
For the Food Court, contact Barb Davidson (413) 229-8091.